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City Council Appoints Harrisonburg Attorney

Harrisonburg, VA – The Harrisonburg City Council appointed a City Attorney at the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening.

Chris Brown will begin April 8 and serve as the second full-time City Attorney with an annual salary of \$110,000. He joins Harrisonburg after serving as Senior Assistant County Attorney in Albemarle County, where he started in October 2011.

"It is an honor to be appointed as the next City Attorney of Harrisonburg," said Chris Brown, Harrisonburg City Attorney. "I am looking forward to working with other staff members and getting reacquainted with members of the community."

As Senior Assistant County Attorney, Brown was assigned as the chief legal counsel for the Albemarle County School Board and primary legal counsel for the Department of Human Resources, Police Department, Albemarle County Fire and Rescue, and the joint regional Emergency Communications Center.

"We are pleased to welcome Mr. Brown to Harrisonburg," said Harrisonburg Mayor, Ted Byrd. "He brings the expertise with local government that we were searching for."

After graduating from Bridgewater College with an undergraduate degree, Brown went on to earn his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. For several years Brown served as Rockingham County's full-time attorney before becoming a partner in a private law firm.

"I anticipate a smooth transition because of Chris' background and prior work experience in our nearby communities," said City Manager Kurt Hodgen.

There were a total of 17 people who applied for this position.

Brown will take the place of Earl Thumma, who will retire at the end of March after serving the city for more than 20 years. Thumma was the first attorney who was appointed in a full-time capacity.

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